

THE
ADVANTAGES *K*
AND
DISADVANTAGES
OF
INCLOSING WASTE LANDS
AND
OPEN FIELDS,

Impartially Stated and Considered.

BY A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

L O N D O N :

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M D C C L X X I I .

ADVANTAGES

DISADVANTAGES



INCLOSURE

OPEN THE

LETTER AND CONTAINING

THE CONTENTS

OF THE

LONDON

PRINTED BY

THE

PRINTERS

O N

ENCLOSURES.

THE enclosure of commons and common fields, has not been more deprecated and condemned by one set of men, than approved of by another. The land-owner seeing the great increase of rent made by his neighbour, conceives a desire of following his example; the village is
B alarmed;

alarmed; the great farmer dreads an increase of rent, and being constrained to a system of agriculture which neither his inclination or experience would tempt him to; the small farmer, that his farm will be taken from him to be consolidated with the larger; the cottager not only expects to lose his commons, but the inheritable consequence of the diminution of labour, the being obliged to quit his native place in search of work; the inhabitants of larger towns, a scarcity of provisions; and the kingdom in general the loss of people. How far those apprehensions

sions are grounded on fact, shall be the subject of the following pages; humbly conceiving, as I do, that a fair discussion of those very material questions, 'The advantages or disadvantages of inclosures, may be of some utility; and hoping, that if I either state false premises, or draw false conclusions, it may be imputed to my want of ability, and that some abler pen will, with equal impartiality for the subject, complete, to the satisfaction of all men, that imperfect search which I have only the satisfaction to set on foot.

To proceed methodically, it will be necessary to divide the lands to be inclosed into four distinct general heads, under each of which, I shall, on as good grounds as my own experience, and the calculations of our most approved authors will enable me to do, state the produce, rent, and expences attending their cultivation in their open, unimproved state, and compare them with the rent, produce, and expences of the same, after they have been inclosed ten years; at which time the fences may be supposed in some perfection, and the land to have gone through
such

such a system of cultivation, as to have brought it to its improved situation. Not proposing in this short tract, to treat in any degree of the best method for doing it, or attempting to establish any favourite system, but shall confine myself strictly to the present well-known course of husbandry generally adapted in open and inclosed grounds, that no person may be led by my arguments to do that which experience may afterwards prove to be wrong, and which is too often the consequence of treatises on husbandry; which adding theory to theory, system to system,

reverie to reverie, confound the judgment, and mislead the practice of most gentlemen, who, following the prevailing passion of improvements, have neither the experience to direct them, nor the diligence to pursue with their own senses, the various circumstances which must render every undertaking more or less prosperous.

As in the following tables, I shall not particularize the various crops, with the probable produce of each; to render my calculations intelligible to the reader, it will be necessary to premise, that under my first general head, I shall treat
of

of rich, open, field-land, let in its open state for about six or seven shillings per acre, and which, I suppose, to be divided into three fields, one of which is a fallow field, and depastured in that year with sheep; the second field is wheat, or barley; and the third beans, peas, or oats. But I beg not to be understood to say, that all common fields are so divided; some townships have only two fields, whilst others have four; but as I believe a greater proportion than both the last mentioned put together have three fields, from that I will make my calculation, observing

observing only, that in those which have but two, the labour increases, and produce of corn decreases in a great degree, whilst the produce of wool in such places, is considerably higher than I have stated it; whilst, on the contrary, wool and labour decrease in proportion, whilst corn increases in those parishes which have four fields.

To return, therefore, to what I before said, the first general head in its open state, is in a course of fallow, wheat, or barley, and beans, peas, or oats; and in its improved state, is converted to grazing, when its productions
are

are the dairy, wool, sheep, and cattle.

The second general head is open arable land, employed as the first, but of an inferior quality as its the rents and profits, but tilled at nearly the same expence as the former.

This, in its improved state, is still in some degree kept in tillage; but with the introduction of turnips, clover, or other grass feeds, its productions, therefore, are of a more mixed nature, consisting of wool, corn, and cattle.

The third general head is common pasture land, of a rich nature,
but

but probably over-run by bushes, furze, or ant-hills, and grazed by sheep and cattle of the parish, perhaps unfinted, or, if stinted as to number, yet the stint is so much greater than it will bear, that in both cases the cattle are poor, and the sole produce to the public is young beasts and horses. These commons having been ten years inclosed, and undergone a proper cultivation, are again converted to grazing, and occupied in the same manner, and with the same advantages as to produce and profit as the first general head.

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The fourth is common pastures, heaths, forests, &c. commoned by bad sheep, and overrun with rubbish; or the enclosure is chiefly converted to, and kept in tillage, with the same profits and systems as the second general head in its improved state.

TABLE

TABLE I.

General heads.	Rent to landlord.	Nett profit to farmer.
First general head, 1000 acres rich open fields, 6s. per acre	l. s. d. 300 0 0	l. s. d. 364 0 0
Do. ten years after enclosure, 15s. per acre	750 0 0	500 0 0
Second general head, 1000 acres open field land of poorer na- ture, 4s. per acre	200 0 0	360 0 0
Do. ten years after enclosure, 8s. per acre	400 0 0	370 0 0
Third general head, 1000 acres rich common pastures, 2s. per acre	100 0 0	240 0 0
Do. ten years after enclosure, 15s. per acre	750 0 0	500 0 0
Fourth general head, 1000 acres commons, heaths, and moors, 1s. per acre	50 0 0	60 0 0
Do. ten years after enclosure, 8s. per acre	400 0 0	370 0 0

The first column in the table
relates to the general heads only,
which

which are as before premised; the second is the rent of the lands; and the third is the supposed nett profit to the farmer.

I shall now from this table consider in what manner the landlord is profited, but must first premise, that I have made no mention of tithes. Indeed in general calculations, I have no business to consider if the produce of the land is paid to A. or B.; the landlord will, I make no doubt, procure from the parson the best terms he can, whilst, on the contrary, the latter will endeavour to advantage his living, or refuse his consent.

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It is not my affair to enter into the dispute betwixt them, expressing my wishes only, that neither side should insist too much on their advantages, but leave the discussion to dispassionate men, to determine in the most equitable manner what proportion of land is a fair equivalent.

I must also premise, that an expence of at least two pounds per acre, will fall on the landlord for the act of Parliament, commission, award, fencing and dividing allotments, and building barns and other conveniences, in these which are at a distance from
the

the village, and must be placed to his account on the creditor side; a sum perhaps scarce sufficient, especially should the last article be considerable; and without such buildings, sure I am the distant allotments could never be occupied to so much advantage, when the expence of labour and carriage would be so much enhanced.

This being allowed no unfair supposition, the landlord's account will be as follows:

Oldrent of the farm when l. s. d.

open - - 300 0 0

Interest of 2000l. at 5 per

cent. - - 100 0 0

400 0 0

To improved rent 750 0 0

Advantage to land-owner 350 0 0

Second general head.

Old rent of the land 200 0 0

Interest of 2000l. 100 0 0

300 0 0

Improved rent - 400 0 0

Advantage to land-owner 100 0 0

Third

Third general head.

		l.	s.	d.
Old rent	-	100	0	0
Interest of 2000l.	-	100	0	0
		<hr/>		
		200	0	0
Improved rent	-	750	0	0
		<hr/>		
Advantage to landlord		550	0	0

Fourth general head.

Old rent	-	50	0	0
Interest of 2000l.	-	100	0	0
		<hr/>		
		150	0	0
Improved rent	-	400	0	0
		<hr/>		
Advantage to landlord		250	0	0
C 3		Recapi-		

Recapitulation of profits to land-
lord.

			l.	s.	d.
First general head	-		350	0	0
Second do.	-	-	100	0	0
Third do.	-	-	550	0	0
Fourth do.	-	-	250	0	0

From hence it appears, that the kind of inclosure which returns the greatest profits to the landowner, is that of good, rich, common pastures; and experience, I believe, verifies the calculation, though every one of those general heads, even that of bad open field land,

land, certainly gives him a sufficient premium to encourage him to proceed.

On this consideration there can be no dispute, that it is the landowner's interest to promote inclosures; but I verily believe, the impropiator of tithes reaps the greatest proportional benefits, whilst the small freeholder, from his expences increasing inversely to the smallness of his allotment, undoubtedly receives the least.

The next column in the table contains the nett profit made by the occupier of the land, being the balance of the produce of the land,

land, the rent, expences of hand and horse labour, wear and tear, parish rates, interest of money for the stocking his farm, seed to sow it with, and probable sum required to insure from accidents deducted; but in this I shall not consider whether occupied by one or more tenants, for in its open state it may be in several hands; in which case, the profits being more divided, will not be near so great as the apparent sums are; but this is more proper to be considered when I speak of hand labour, as in small farms, much of that falls to the share of the farmer himself,

and

and will properly be placed to the labourer's account.

The farmer's account will stand thus:

First general head.

Farmer's profit	when	l.	s.	d.
open	-	-	367	0 0
Do. when inclosed			500	0 0
			<hr/>	
Balance to do.	-		133	0 0

Second general head.

Farmer's profit	-	300	0 0
Do. value inclosed	-	370	0 0
		<hr/>	
Balance to do.	-	70	0 0
		Third	

Third general head.

		l.	s.	d.
Farmer's profit	-	240	0	0
Do. when inclosed	-	500	0	0
		<hr/>		
Balance to do.	-	260	0	0

Fourth general head.

Farmer's profit	-	60	0	0
Do. when inclosed	-	370	0	0
		<hr/>		
Balance to do.	-	310	0	0

Recapi-

Recapitulation of balances in
favour of the farmer by inclo-
sures:

			l.	s.	d.
First head,	-	-	133	0	0
Second do.	-	-	70	0	0
Third do.	-	-	260	0	0
Fourth do.	-	-	310	0	0

General recapitulation of profit
to the land-owner and occupier.

1st head.	Landlord	350	0	0
	Tenant	133	0	0
		<hr/>		
		483	0	0

2d head.

[30]

		l.	s.	d.
2d head.	Landlord	100	0	0
	Tenant	70	0	0
		<hr/>		
		170	0	0
3d head.	Landlord	550	0	0
	Tenant	260	0	0
		<hr/>		
		710	0	0
4th head.	Landlord	250	0	0
	Tenant	310	0	0
		<hr/>		
		560	0	0

From this recapitulation it will appear, that the occupiers of land have nothing to fear from inclosures;

tures; the profits from every one of those general varieties of it, returning a sufficient premium for the advance of labour and expence which must fall on them for some years after their commencement, part of which ought undoubtedly to be paid by the land-owner, if the tenant is not assured of a competent term of years to repay him; but I do not propose entering into the proportion which reason and necessity would exact from each, the general conclusion being my only consideration.

I must confess, that I have paid in the above calculations no regard

D to

to the small farmer's interest, nor will his fears be in the least diminished. Indeed I doubt it is too true, that he must of necessity give over farming, and betake himself to labour for the support of his family; but on the other hand, we must consider that the condition of a small farmer is very often worse than even that of a day labourer; he works harder, and lives poorer; has all the cares, and little of the proportional profits of the larger farmer; and experience very often shews, that he earns as a labourer a much more comfortable subsistence than before,

fore, if not too old to betake himself to his new station.

To put this matter in calculation, we will suppose a small farmer in an open field occupies lands of the rent of twelve pounds per annum, and that he makes four rents or forty-eight pounds of his produce; one rent to the landlord, a second to wear and tear and parish duties, a third to labour, part of which he earns himself, and a fourth rent to himself; his subsistence will then be one rent for himself

12 0 0

D 2

Carried

	l.	s.	d.
Carried over	12	0	0
Part of the labour of his family	8	0	0

Total profit to the farmer 20 0 0

Which twenty pounds is barely
sufficient for his maintainance.

But this land being inclosed,
and the farmer occupying still
what will pay rent for twelve
pounds in its uninclosed state, or
twenty-four when inclosed, he
will make about two rents and a
half, or sixty pounds, his accounts
will stand thus:

Rent

	l.	s.	d.
Rent to his landlord	24	0	0
Wear and tear, interest, &c.			
at least as much as the			
rent - - -	24	0	0
Clear to himself -	12	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total	60	0	0
	<hr/>		
Clear profits to the farmer	12	0	0
Handlabourearned by him-			
self - - -	6	0	0
	<hr/>		
	18	0	0
Value of his labour for one			
year - - -	20	0	0
	<hr/>		
Losses by his farm -	2	0	0

D 3

The

The above state of the small farmer is founded on the strictest proofs. I have seen some small farmers in inclosed places, starving with their families, till necessity had forced them to quit their farms, and betake to labour, when they have afterwards earned a very comfortable living, and rejoiced in the necessity which compelled them to it.

But in this place I must observe, that as I think it impossible for small farmers to exist as such in inclosed farms, so I would be understood to wish that landlords would always endeavour to render
the

the lot of labourers, or reduced farmers, as easy as possible, by laying to their cottage a sufficient proportion of land to enable them to keep a cow or two, which is also a great benefit to the landlord, as by such humanity, he insures to the farmers the labour of these useful hands, and increases his own estate, by letting so much of his land to those who will pay an advanc'd rent for conveniency, more from the profit of their labour than the produce of the land.

In the second table, the first column denotes the general heads in
their

their unincloded and inclosed states; the second column the amount of the sums paid for hand-labour; the third column the value of horse-labour, which is also to be deducted from the produce of the farm; the fourth column contains the general expences of the farmer, and are composed of the interest of his money for stocking the land, the probable insurance of such sums, the parish rates, wear and tear of his dead stock, repair of fences, and price of feeds, together with any additional manure not arising from his land, as lime, &c. which columns.

columns being added to the landlord's rent, and the farmer's profit in the last table, are all the sums for which he credits his lands.

T A B L E II.

General heads.	Hand labour.	Horse labour.	General expence.
First general head, uninclosed.	l. s. d. 400 0 0	l. s. d. 367 0 0	l. s. d. 966 0 0
Do. inclosed.	100 0 0	25 0 0	125 0 0
Second general head, uninclosed.	400 0 0	367 0 0	733 0 0
Do. inclosed.	325 0 0	250 0 0	455 0 0
Third general head, uninclosed.	10 0 0		120 0 0
Do. inclosed.	10 0 0	25 0 0	125 0 0
Fourth general head, uninclosed.	10 0 0		70 0 0
Do. inclosed.	325 0 0	250 0 0	455 0 0

The

The second column in the second table being the amount of sums paid for hand labour in each of the general heads, those sums may be considered as the annual sums paid to the cottager for his maintenance, though it must be allowed that much of the above is the profit of hired servants, yet that consideration being equal under each general head, I shall not make any direct deduction for it.

As this, therefore, must be placed to the labourer's account, I shall proceed to examine in what manner he is affected as to his earnings,

earnings, by the inclosure; and in so doing, shall chiefly confine myself to the numbers of people employed, supposing that one family with another earns annually twenty pounds, by no means too great a sum in the present dearth of the necessaries of life. I shall therefore divide the annual sums of each general head, to determine the numbers of people employed by 20l.

Under the first head the account will be as follows:

Unincl.

[42]

First head.

l. s. d.

Unincl. Hand labour 400 0 0 Families 20

Inclosed. Do. 100 0 0 Families 5

Decreased 15

Second head.

Unincl. Hand labour 400 0 0 Families 20

Inclosed. Do. 325 0 0 Families 16 $\frac{1}{4}$

Decreased 3 $\frac{3}{4}$

Third head.

Unincl. Hand labour 10 0 0 Families 0 $\frac{1}{2}$

Inclosed. Do. 100 0 0 Families 5

Increased 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Fourth head.

Unincl. Hand labour 10 0 0 Families $\frac{1}{2}$

Inclosed. Do. 325 0 0 Families 16 $\frac{1}{4}$

Increased 15 $\frac{3}{4}$

Recapi.

Recapitulation.

First head decreased	15	}	Decreased $18\frac{3}{4}$
Second head do.	$3\frac{3}{4}$		
Third head increased	$4\frac{1}{2}$	}	Increased $20\frac{1}{4}$
Fourth head do.	$15\frac{3}{4}$		

By this it will appear, that the inclosure of common fields in different proportions, decreases the number of inhabitants, whilst that of commons has the contrary effects; and this perfectly agrees with experience, but in a more extensive view as to the general consequence, it will be necessary to take in a comparison of the different proportions each of these

E general

general heads bear to the other; a task, I believe, no one man equal to. Different counties are of very different qualities; Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, perhaps contain an infinitely greater proportion of common fields, whilst Northumberland, Westmorland, and Yorkshire, exceed in moors, heaths, and commons; other counties, as Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, &c. are of a mixt nature, part of each county being rich, and part poor. However, to make my calculations more generally to be understood, and conclusions drawn from them,

them, I will, for arguments sake, suppose the proportion of each general head to be equal over the kingdom.

As from these premises we see, that in the inclosure of four thousand acres of the different general heads, the balance on the part of the labourers is an increase of one family and one half, it must necessarily follow, that there is no real decrease of inhabitants from inclosures; and as it is very probable the quantity of land of the fourth general head, exceeds in quantity any of the others, the increase to the nation will be infinitely greater

than here set down. To this may be added, that every improvement in agriculture, (for I will by no means assert that it is arrived at a state of perfection) by adding to the quantity of labour, will also add to the increase of inhabitants; for as a garden or hop-yard employs more hands, and returns more produce than a field of equal dimensions, so every approach in husbandry to garden-cultivation, must in proportion have the same effect.

Perhaps it may be objected, that twenty pounds a year is not sufficient for a family; in some countries,

ties, this is certainly the case; but in the calculations of the price of hand labour, I have taken such a medium as is proper to form a general conclusion from, as I have stated the expences of a family in proportion to the price of labour. If in any particular county labour is higher, a greater sum must be apportioned to the expences of each family, which will in the end amount to exactly the same thing. I will venture to affirm, that (some local advantages or disadvantages of situation excepted) the price of labour will bear an exact proportion to the expences of living in

any place, in this exactly conforming to the principles of trade, which in all parts of the world, if left to itself, will most certainly of itself attain to its own proper determinate equilibrium.

To return to what I have before said, we may now account for the general out-cry of the decrease of inhabitants in the several counties where good common fields are in the greatest proportion, and in which counties the commons to be inclosed, are such as I have ranked under the third general head. The account in such counties will stand as follows:

To

To decrease under first head	15 families
To increase under third head	$4\frac{1}{2}$ do.
	<hr/>
Loss on inclosing 2000 acres	$10\frac{1}{2}$ families

which would be a melancholy consideration indeed to the nation, was it not over-balanced by the inclosures of the other kinds of lands; to which it must also be added, that in inclosing even good lands, some part of them will always be left in tillage for use of the farmer, and additional convenience to his farm, by which the labour will not decrease altogether in the proportion I have laid it down

down in, though the decrease is undoubtedly very great.

I shall next take into consideration the general expences incident to the balance of the land, and, as the next column in the second table contains the amount of horse labour, shall consider that article separately from the general expences. By horse labour I mean how much of the produce of the land must be applied to the support of cattle necessary to till the ground.

This is a very material article as to the nation, as the produce of a prodigious quantity of land is

is unprofitably disposed of for that purpose. Horses, it is true, bear a great price at present, and have done so for a few years, but this is partly owing to the increased luxury of the times, and partly to the decrease of commons, on which alone great numbers can be bred: and as the increase of price in any luxury of life raised from the land, is of singular advantage to the owner and occupier, and is no detriment to the public in general, whilst on the contrary, the increase in price, or decrease in quantity of the necessaries of life, has a contrary effect, by producing
a decay

a decay of manufactures, the only true source of wealth to a state, it must necessarily be of singular advantage, if inclosures will have the effect of decreasing the growth, and enhancing the price of horses, and at the same time converting such an immense quantity of land before employed for their maintenance, to the producing greater quantities of food for men, and by that increase diminishing the price.

The account will be as follows:

ist

1st general head, value of l. s. d.

horse labour	-	367 0 0
Do. when inclosed		<u>25 0 0</u>
Saved in horse labour		342 0 0

2d general head do.		367 0 0
Do. inclosed	-	<u>250 0 0</u>
Saved in do.	-	117 0 0

3d general head do.		0 0 0
Do. inclosed	-	<u>25 0 0</u>
Increased in horse labour		25 0 0

4th general head do.	-	0 0 0
Do. inclosed	-	<u>250 0 0</u>
Increased in horse labour		250 0 0

Recapi-

Recapitulation.

Saved in first general head	342 0 0
Do. in second head	117 0 0
Total saved	459 0 0
Increased in third head	25 0 0
Do. in fourth head	250 0 0
Total increased	275 0 0
Total saved in horse labour	<u>184 0 0</u>

By this it does appear, that in the inclosure of 4000 acres, the total saving to the nation will be 184l. or the produce of one hundred acres; and to this must be added, that if bad commons bear the greatest proportion, a good deal of the increased expence of horses must be taken off, as these commons,

commons, in their wild state, were depastured chiefly with sheep, and consequently when converted to tillage, the cattle employed in such tillage, would be maintained on land, before that time of little or no service to the community in raising provisions.

The fourth column in the second table contains the general expences of the occupiers of the land in the interest of money for stocking his farm, and insurance of such money, parish rates, wear and tear, repair of fences, expence of seed, and additional manure, not arising within his farm, as

F lime,

lime, &c. the account of which
will stand as follows:

	l.	s.	d.
1st general head uninclosed	966	0	0
Do. inclosed -	455	0	0
	Saved	841	0 0
2d general head uninclosed	733	0	0
Do. inclosed -	455	0	0
	Saved	278	0 0
3d general head uninclosed	120	0	0
Do. inclosed -	125	0	0
	Increased	5	0 0
4th general head uninclosed	70	0	0
Do. inclosed -	455	0	0
	Increased	385	0 0
Decreased in first head	841	0	0
Do. in 2d head -	278	0	0
	Total	1119	0 0
Increased in third head	5	0	0
Do in fourth head -	485	0	0
	Total	490	0 0
	Total saved	629	0 0
	By		

By inclosing 4000 acres, then thus appears an annual saving of six hundred twenty-nine pounds, which is also a very material circumstance in its favour, as most true it is, that every annual saving (if the business is as well carried on) adds so much principal to the national stock as it would pay interest for, which is of infinite consequence to a trading nation; for when the expences of raising the same produce is lessened, the produce can be afforded cheaper, and the manufacturer be able to carry his goods cheaper to market.

I am aware an objection will be made here, that experience shews that when corn is decreased, manufactures are most flourishing: this, I verily believe, is in some places a true state of the fact, but it is only in such places where the price of manufactures do not vary with the times, in the same manner as labourers wages do. The latter must earn a competence to exist on, which the farmer takes care he shall not do in too plentiful a manner, whilst the former, knowing how necessary he is to the merchant, values his labour by the briskness of trade, which may
 happen

happen to be in an inverse ratio to the price of provisions; if then the manufacturer should raise his price 25 per cent. at a time when corn is 25 per cent. below the medium value, his wages are really 50 per cent. higher than before, he can consequently earn as much money in half the time he did before, and then he will no doubt keep Saint Monday, and perhaps Saint Tuesday, to the deficiency of one third part of the quantity of manufactures which ought to be finished in a given time: but as it is only in the power of a certain sort of manufacturers to com-

bine in this manner, I will venture to affirm, that three parts in four of our manufactures for exportation, would be utterly ruined, if the necessaries of life were raised 25 per cent.

Having now gone through all the articles for which the land in its inclosed and uninclosed state is debtor to the occupier, it will be necessary to see in what manner, and for what articles, the land is creditor to the occupier; I shall therefore, in table third, bring to account its various productions; but here I shall also confine myself to the general systems of agriculture

culture and improvements already premised, desiring that it may be remembered, that I do not state them as the best possible systems, but only such as a proper medium may be drawn from for the purpose of making general calculations; if there is any considerable failure, it is not in the uninclosed state, which cannot much be varied from, and when improved by inclosure, the system will not at least be worse than here laid down. This will be an additional proof of the use of inclosures, in the same proportion as the system is improved beyond any suppositions.

T A B L E

T A B L E III.

General heads.	Value of wool.	Value of provisions	Total produce.
First general head, uninclosed. }	l. s. d. 50 0 0	l. s. d. 2350 0 0	l. s. d. 2400 0 0
Do. inclosed. }	250 0 0	1250 0 0	1500 0 0
Second general head, uninclosed. }	50 0 0	1950 0 0	2000 0 0
Do. inclosed. }	100 0 0	1700 0 0	1800 0 0
Third general head, uninclosed. }	100 0 0	370 0 0	470 0 0
Do. inclosed. }	250 0 0	1250 0 0	1500 0 0
Fourth general head, uninclosed. }	90 0 0	100 0 0	190 0 0
Do. inclosed. }	100 0 0	1700 0 0	1800 0 0

In the third table the first column contains the general heads; the second column the value of wool given in each before and after

after the inclosure ; the third column is the value of the remaining productions of the land in provisions, as corn, cattle lean or fat, (for the value of lean cattle must be placed to the account of provisions in proportion of their price when sold to the grazier, to their price when sold to the butcher) the product of of the dairy and other articles of provisions ; the last column is the general value of the whole product, or the two last articles of wool and provisions added together ; the last column also is equal to the two articles in the two first tables of labour, rent, and profit
to

to the farmer, or the general balance of his accounts between the debtor and creditor to his farm.

The wool account being in the second column, I shall now proceed to examine the state of that account in the various situations of the land.

		l.	s.	d.
1st general head, value of wool		50	0	0
Inclosed do.	-	250	0	0
		Increased	200	0
2d do. value of wool	-	50	0	0
Inclosed do.	-	100	0	0
		Increased	50	0
3d do. value of wool	-	100	0	0
Inclosed do.	-	250	0	0
		Increased	150	0
4th do. value of wool	-	90	0	0
Inclosed do.	-	100	0	0
		Increased	10	0
		Recapi-		

Recapitulation.

Value of wool increased by inclosure.

	l.	s.	d.
In 1st general head	200	0	0
In 2d do. - -	50	0	0
In 3d do. - -	150	0	0
In 4th do. - -	10	0	0
Total increase in 4000	<hr/>		
acres - -	410	0	0

It has been often urged, that inclosures have a manifest tendency to distress the woollen manufactories, and that in particular the cloathing wool (which being of a short, fine quality, is chiefly
grown

grown on downs, heaths, or forests) is greatly diminished thereby. In respect to the fine wool, I believe the case is truly stated, but other kinds of wool are increased in an infinitely greater proportion; true it is, the wool so increased being either walk wool, or pasture wool, is the most proper for bays, and stuffs of different denominations, and at present cannot be much used in the cloathing manufactory, unless some means can be found out for that purpose, hitherto not generally known, but which, I believe, have

have been in the thoughts of those who are capable of doing it.

This increase of long wool has of late been so notoriously the fact, that for two or three years last past, it has remained a mere drug on the hands of the grower, not to be got rid of at any price; one third of last years clipping is actually at present on the farmer's hands.

To remedy this evil must be the work of time; the farmers will soon be convinced that their present growth is not marketable, by degrees, therefore, they will debase the staple, and recover the equilibrium,

G

brium, which trade is always in search of.

But if the debasing the staple of wool, should from other reasons be found difficult, they must of necessity occur to some other growth of surer sale, and consequently add to the quantity of provisions returned to the nation for the more easy support of its people, which will be a fund for the purchase of cloathing wool in countries whose soil or situation are only proper for it; a thing not to be dreaded in the least, as the purchase of a raw material, capable of being worked up to a great value,

value, is never of disservice to the nation which buys it.

I shall next bring to account the value of provisions contained in the third column, desiring it may be remembered, that I do not state those products as arising from the best possible systems, but from such as a proper medium calculation may be drawn, sufficient to answer the purposes of a short tract like this, and founded on the present prevailing method of cultivation.

G 2

1st head,

[70]

1st head, value of pro- l. s. d.

vifions - - - 2350 0 0

Do. inclofed - - - 1250 0 0

Decreafed 1100 0 0

2d head - - - 1950 0 0

Do. inclofed - - - 1800 0 0

Decreafed 150 0 0

3d head - - - 470 0 0

Do. inclofed - - - 1250 0 0

Increased 750 0 0

4th head - - - 100 0 0

Do. inclofed - - - 1800 0 0

Increased 1700 0 0

Total

Recapitulation.

1st head decreased	1100 0 0	}	1250 0 0
2d head, do.	150 0 0		
3d head increased	750 0 0	}	2450 0 0
4th head, do.	1700 0 0		

Total increase of provi-

sions to the nation on l. s. d.

4000 acres inclosed 1200 0 0

Thus in the article of provisions we have a large increased balance to the nation, from whence then can arise the fears of scarcity, which are so industriously spread over all ranks of men; is it not rather manifest, that the increased luxury in the methods of living,

1st head, value of pro-	l.	s.	d.
visions - - -	2350	00	00
Do. inclosed - -	1250	00	00
Decreased	1100	00	00
2d head - - -	1950	00	00
Do. inclosed - -	1800	00	00
Decreased	150	00	00
3d head - - -	470	00	00
Do. inclosed - -	1250	00	00
Increased	750	00	00
4th head - - -	100	00	00
Do. inclosed - -	1800	00	00
Increased	1700	00	00
Total			

Recapitulation.

1st head decreased	1100 0 0	}	1250 0 0
2d head, do.	150 0 0		
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4th head, do.	1700 0 0		

Total increase of provi-

sions to the nation on l. s. d.

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Thus in the article of provisions we have a large increased balance to the nation, from whence then can arise the fears of scarcity, which are so industriously spread over all ranks of men; is it not rather manifest, that the increased luxury in the methods of living,

G 3

could

could not have been provided for but by the improvements which inclosures have introduced? I will readily grant, that common fields are of more use to the state, either considered as supplying work, or providing victuals, than the same inclosed. I will as readily grant, that Leicestershire, from the great proportion of these fields, may find some considerable diminution in the growth of corn; but this is a mere local consideration, the county is richer, the farmers gain more valuable crops, and the loss of the people to the nation is infinitely over-balanced by the cultivation

vation of waste lands in other counties.

On the whole then, I will venture to assert, that by the system of inclosing, the land-owner will increase the value of his lands, the farmer his profits, labour will be at least as plentiful, and provisions much more so; that taking them into consideration in a national light, we have nothing to fear from even a general enclosure bill, were such a thing practicable, as it neither tends to depopulate nor starve us.

Perhaps it may not be improper here to state a fact, which, in some measure,

[measure, contradicts that general assertion, that the number of people are lessened in the kingdom of late years. Lincolnshire is one of those counties which is generally quoted on this occasion. The militia laws have now existed fifteen years, in which period the nation has been involved in a destructive war, and the county mentioned has been as much improved by enclosures as any in the kingdom; one might naturally then expect a considerable diminution of people, but, on the contrary, when the lists were returned last year, it appeared that (allowing for
for

for the alterations in the manner of making the lists from what was prescribed in the first militia act) the numbers of men liable to be lotted for, were greater than at the first period of giving them in.

I shall now conclude with wishing, that those who have joined in the popular clamours against inclosures, would seriously turn in their thoughts the premises above stated, that they would compare them with the real state of those places they are acquainted with ; and if in doing so, they should find them agreeable to truth

truth and experience, those prejudices may be eradicated, and the clamour of the people be raised for inclosures.

APPEN-

APPENDIX.

I Here subjoin the calculations of the expences and profits, assumed in the foregoing tables, which are in a great measure taken from the most approved authors in husbandry; but in some articles corrected from experience.

Open field land of the first sort.

	l.	s.	d.
To three years rent	0	18	0
			To

	l.	s.	d.
To four plowings in fallow year —	0	16	0
To two harrowings in ditto —	0	4	0
To manure or lime in ditto —	2	0	0
To harrowing and sowing —	0	5	0
To reaping and binding wheat —	0	6	0
To leading and housing ditto —	0	3	0
To threshing & leading out —	0	4	6
To plowing and sowing two crops	0	8	0
		To	

To mowing and cock-	l.	s.	d.
ing ditto —	0	3	6
To leading and stack-			
ing ditto	0	4	0
To threshing and lead-			
ing out —	0	4	0
To poors rates	0	1	6
To wear and tear	0	4	6
	<hr/>		
	6	2	0
	<hr/>		

Total charge on the
land in labour, rent,
and expences for 3
years —————

6100 0 0

Or per annum

2033 6 8

H

Charges

[80]

Charges in the table	l.	s.	d.
for rent —	300	0	0
For man's labour	400	0	0
For horse labour	367	1	0
For other expences	966	6	0
	<hr/>		
	2033	7	0
	<hr/>		

The value of the crops.

To wheat 20 bushels, if barley
three quarters

Medium value — 4 0 0

To second crop of

peas, $2\frac{1}{2}$ quarters,

if oats 3 ditto 2 10 0

To straw — 0 10 0

To

To sheep in the fal-	l.	s.	d.
low field —	0	4	0
	<hr/>		
Total produce	7	4	0
Or per annum	2	8	0
	<hr/>		

Produce of 1000 acres

at 2l. 8s. per ann. 2400 0 0

In this estimate of produce it will be observed, that nothing is mentioned of the improvement of the farmer's stock of cattle, but the greatest part of such improvement must be placed to the account of the inclosed lands and common pastures, where they are depastured.

H 2

When

When these lands have been inclosed for eight or ten years, the fences pretty well grown, and the seeds arrived to some degree of perfection, the account of expences will be as follow :

To rent	————	750 0 0
To making 200 acres of hay	————	50 0 0
To fencing	—	20 0 0
To a shepherd		30 0 0
To two maids, one boy		20 0 0
To wear and tear		20 0 0
To parish rates	—	30 0 0
To interest on 1000l.		80 0 0
		<hr/>
Total expences		1000 0 0
		<hr/>
		The

The produce will be at last as follows :

	l.	s.	d.
To 600 fat sheep	900	0	0
To 20 head of fat cattle	200	0	0
To the produce of 10 cows	50	0	0
To four horses fold	100	0	0
To 250 tods of wool	250	0	0
Total produce	1500	0	0

The above estimates will also include the general head in its improved state. The produce of this in its unimproved state, by being infinitely overstocked, covered with rubbish, and often as

fatal to sheep and cattle, as improving to them, cannot be well rated at more than I have estimated it.

The second general head in its open field condition, and occupied in the manner before premised, may be estimated as to expences of horses and hand labour, nearly the same as in the first general head; the rent of it at four shillings per acre; the farmer's profit, and the general expences considerably under the before-mentioned, the crops being less in quantity and quality by 400l. a year, which accounts for those deficiencies.

When

When this shall have been some years inclosed, and the fences out of danger, the expences of its cultivation, supposing a course of turnips, barley, clover, wheat, feeds four years, are as follow :

To plowing, harrow-	l. s. d.
ing, and sowing tur-	
nips ———	1 4 0
To hoeing ditto	0 8 6
To plowing, harrow-	
ing, and sowing	
barley ———	0 6 0
To mowing, cocking,	
and stacking ditto	0 7 6
To clover feed	0 6 0
	To

	l.	s.	d.
To making clover hay	0	7	0
To plowing and sowing wheat —	0	6	0
Reaping & leading ditto	0	9	6
To threshing and leading out ditto	0	4	0
To grass feeds	0	15	0
To manure or lime	2	0	0
To poors rates	0	4	0
To rent —————	3	4	0
To wear and tear	0	8	0
To shepherds wages	0	8	0
<hr/>			
Total charges for 8 years	10	16	0
Or per annum	1	7	0
<hr/>			
Total			

Total charge on 1000	l. s. d.
acres —————	1350 0 0
Interest of money	80 0 0
Farmer's profit	370 0 0
	<hr/>
	1800 0 0
	<hr/>

Produce of this system.

To turnips	2 0 0
To Barley —————	6 0 0
To Clover —————	1 8 0
Seeds four years	4 0 0
Straw —————	1 0 0
	<hr/>
	14 8 0
Or per annum	1 16 0
	<hr/>

1000 acres per ann. 1800 0 0

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